

Wednesday, September 19, 1979
Community Service Department Meeting
Conference Room
31 Fulton Street
Ms. Kitty V. Taylor Presiding

Meeting was called to order by Ms. Kitty V. Taylor of the United Community Corporation Community Service Department in the auditorium at the United Community Corp. The meeting was to discuss the problems and needs of the Senior Citizens particularly in the City of Newark.

Rev Kelmo Porter, Director of the Golden Age Project opened the meeting with a prayer, Fred Butler, President of UCC gave his greetings and spoke of the Positive services for the elderly. Mr. Butler commended Ms. Taylor for starting her meeting on time. He spoke of the Unwed Mothers, Alcoholic program and the role that UCC has in these different programs, etc. He also spoke of the quality of services that the program has and is still giving. Mr. Butler spoke of the monies that come to the City for seniors and said all the services should be given the best professional manner, City, County, State and Federal level. Mr. Butler also said Senior Services were limited in Housing Developments, 80% of Seniors do not live in housing, collectively we need to find out where seniors are especially Hispanic seniors, we need to know how the County of Essex services senior citizens because 2/3 of the seniors live in Newark. The United Community Corp. will continue to serve the Senior Citizens in whatever capacity there is.

James C. Teague the Interim Executive Director of UCC gave his greeting. He said the seniors are in capable hands because of the Community Services Dept., Alex Looper, Josiah Whitley, Julia Diaz, James Keys and Lee Kaufman who have worked directly with the seniors. He said the major administrative objective is the coordination of services being delivered to the seniors, also stated by Mr. Teague was the Community Service Department is aiding the total community. The objectives that we are trying to achieve is to bring the seniors and the Youth together, because this is also the International Year of the Child, and we are trying to satisfy the needs of both age groups.

James Keys made his pledge of support from the Community Relations Department stating if there is any type of support needed at any given time do not hesitate to contact the Community Relations Department.

Forms were given out to all persons present at the Community Service Meeting to have them give their own expressions and thoughts of what they would expect at future meetings.

Kitty told all the seniors and the other organizations that they should become a member of the National Senior Citizens Council. Rev. Porter told of the work that has been and still is going on with the seniors. He spoke of the bridge that the seniors had to cross to get where they are today and how they are trying to maintain that status. Rev. Porter met with President Carter recently for 2 hours speaking of the high cost of Medical Bills that is put on the seniors and that they have no way of paying these bills. Rev. Porter also stated we need to know different means and ways of how to handle the situation better than it is being handled now. In order to start a Senior Organization group with the N.S.C.C., Inc., only 20 people are needed. We need to keep Seniors lobbying in Washington, at the State level to be concerned about seniors 55+.

Ms. Taylor stated at a recent visit to the White House with Mr. Josiah Whitley, Ms. Nellie Grier, Mr. Phil Orlanda, Mr. Richard Martins, Ms. Lillian Long, Mr. Alfonso Garner, Ms. Rose Cooper, Dr. Dennis Valenti and Ms. Cathy Weiss they met with Mr. Nelson Cruikshawk who was former director of the National Council of Senior Citizens and who is the Present Counselor on the Aging to President Jimmy Carter, told us to go back to our Community and get ready to make plans and suggestions for the forth coming White House Conference on the Aging to be held in 1981.

Ike Thomas has been very helpful working with Seniors as well as Planned Parenthood. Some folks would say "Why do Seniors need to go to Planned Parenthood," because of the age difference, but they need to have their breast checked for cancer, Pap smears for cancer, etc.

Rev. Porter who is the Director of the Golden Age Program and on the National level said to call on him at any time for assistance.

Ms. Kitty Taylor told every one to get the Seniors together in their neighborhoods so that more Seniors can be aware of the services that is there for them. Mother Nellie Grier told of the Newark Seniors Citizens Council that is to meet every second Monday in the month at 10:30 A.M. in the City Council Chamber on the second floor at City Hall. She also would like for Seniors to join the Local Chapter as well as the National Chapter. Mother Grier spoke of the needs of the Seniors and how Seniors are living in one room apartments (some of them forgotten). She also stated that Washington should be made aware of the conditions that Seniors are faced with and also said that Seniors should be put on the Planning Board. All Councilmen and other dignitaries are going to be invited to the meetings. The Mayor has been spoken to in reference to the meetings. Mother Grier told the Seniors how much they are needed especially Black Seniors.

Mr. John McGee told the Seniors how much they are needed, he also spoke of the flood in the South and the many problems of the Seniors there.

The Newark Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held the 4th Thursday of every month at 605 Broad Street, 7th floor at 2 P.M. as announced by Commissioner Ernest P. Haywood Sr., Chairman.

Mrs. Luevert Walker from the Newark Redevelopment and Housing Authority gave notice of the Energy Conservation Work Shop to be held on September 25, 1979 at 7:30 P.M. at 506 Broad Street, 2nd floor, this meeting is in reference on how to save on fuel and utility bills, there will be different representatives from different organizations. She also had petitions for signatures to be sent to the Governor trying to get some relief on the utility cost.

Ms. Mollie Dawkins who is now retired from Newark Housing Authority, but is still doing volunteer work with Seniors spoke of the income of families making \$12,000 and less she said what a very hard time they are having with the high cost of utility bills, this bill is before Congress now. Due to the fact that \$12,000 is very limited in comparison to the inflationary costs today, also stated by Ms. Dawkins, there should be an amendment regarding the \$12,000 limitation to a couple.

Mr. Dinson who has been very much involved with the Federation of Senior Citizens but is now retired, spoke of the bill that he still has from Public Service (which he said he has already paid) and wants to know what to do about this. He is also involved in other capacities with seniors. Mr. Fred Butler said he would like to talk with him about his situation. Also Mr. Serio from P.S.E. & G would like to have the information from Mr. Dinson to find out exactly what he can do about the problem.

Everyone at the meeting was introduced either by there own leader or a personal introduction the following persons were recorded because of specific services which they had to offer all the elderly:

John Caufield - Fire Director, 17 years of service. Mr. Caufield showed the group some stickers which he said is for the benefit of Seniors, Babies and Invalids. These stickers are to be placed on the windows where these people are to let the firemen know exactly where to give immediate attention.

Phil Orlando - Office of the Elderly Affairs - Director of Senior Services 605 Broad Street, 624-6209 (General Information regarding Elderly Affairs).

Lonnie Tucker - Fire Department, Public Relations Officer, serves all citizens of Newark, also works part time with W.N.J.R. City Hall number 733-7491, Radio Station number 688-5000.

Gerald Wilson - Central Boys club, 1 Avon Ave. 248-2727 (Supervises Senior Citizens Programs)

Willie Brown - Assemblyman 29th district (Works for Senior Citizens Programs through Legislation)

Rev. Horace Sharper - To-Sault, Newark Housing Authority, 623-9050, also the President, he said there are 50% Seniors and 50% families (Black and White). (Former Newark City Councilman who specializes in Golden Age Programs.)

Libby Martin - Representing Seniors going back to school, *North Ward Cultural Ctr Center - Senior Citizens Dept.*

Louis Greene - Director of Comprehensive Crime Prevention, 733-6101
Information re: Senior Citizens and Crime Prevention Programs

Helen Freeman - Field rep. - monitoring the finances on aging (Essex County Office on Aging)

Barbara Jones - UCC's Neighborhood Center #8 - works with Seniors

Lucy Parker - UCC's Neighborhood Center # 6 - re-establishing services for Seniors (Director)

Dorothy Wanamaker - Planned Parenthood - (In Senior Citizens Division Health Programs re: Aged)

Ike Thomas - Special assistant to the Bus. Admin., Public Affairs, concerned about the Seniors, City Hall, Newark, N.J.

Mary Mathis - Planned Parenthood - Health Educator, she spoke of Experienced Persons and their Sexuality. (Has data for Senior Citizens re: Sex Problems)

Ms. Hattie Tucker - Councilman Donald Tucker's Mother, who is a Senior volunteer and officer at the Elizabeth Avenue Senior Citizens Center was saluted.

Ms. Mae Byrd - retired, she is still a Senior volunteer (Can give valuable information re: Education In the Senior Citizens World)

Ms. Molly Dawkins - retired from Newark Housing Authority, but is still a Senior volunteer

Mr. Roosevelt Lawson - retired, Golden Age Project also President of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board (Experienced in the Field of Aging)

Mr. Charles Dinson - retired, he does surveys in different neighborhoods for Seniors who are not able to get help for themselves

- Ms. Marion Askin - Essex Newark Legal Services - free legal services for those 50 years of age and over, services on Social Security, Nursing Homes, etc.
- Mr. David Brown - Boys club, Hawthorne Ave., (Senior Citizens Coordinator)
- Ms. Mable Richardson - Works with seniors in their needs also a member of UCC Council in the Pennington Court area
- Ms. Helen Thomas - Recording Secretary, Walsh Homes (Aides voluntarily in Senior Programs, offers her services to those who need it)
- Ms. Mattie Moore (Rev.) - Essex Plaza, Editor of the Senior Citizens Newsletter
- Ms. Rose Cooper - Program Coordinator, supv. of tele service, field rep. Essex Plaza, Program Coordinator for building and Council
- Ms. Louise Doulgas - Newark Housing Authority - 560 Broad Street, 430-2550 Teleservice Division (Brings Sunshine into Elderly's life)
- Ms. Lucille Peterson - 122 Ludlow Street, Ms. Peterson was also voted as representative for her area on the UCC Planning Council she is the President of the Dreamland Senior Citizens Organization (Gives neighborhood programs for the Elderly)
- Ms. Sandra Muhammad - 642-1387, President of SCLC - Newark and vicinity - (Setting up a Senior Citizens Division to aid the Elderly City Wide)
- Mr. Jim Orange - Volunteer for UCC seniors - 372-6489, President Gospel Honor Society (Gives various programs for Older Americans)
- Ms. Jane Sherron - American Red Cross - 676-1616 (Numerous classes offered to the Elderly re: First Aide, etc.)
- Mr. Fred Washington - Rep. Stella Wright Projects (Coordinates Senior Services)
- Ms. Julia Middleton - Director of Independence Hall, volunteer also for UCC Seniors - Aides in Programming of Senior Citizen Activities
- Ms. Margretta Sumner - Director of Administration - UCC
- Mr. Robert Butler - Director of Board Affairs - UCC *and*
- The Community Relations entire staff was present - UCC *and introduced.*
- Ms. Lee Kaufman, chairperson of the volunteers for Senior Citizens served as chief hostess

Josiah Whitley gave a brief summary of the meeting, he said how pleased he was that so many people turned out in behalf of the seniors, he also told the seniors they should get to know their neighbors. Mr. Whitley told the seniors to fill out the forms that was given to them to let the Community Service Department know how to better organize and help meet the demanding needs of the seniors.

Approximatley 125 persons attended the meeting.

Rev. Mattie Moore from Essex Plaza gave the benediction. after the formal part of the meeting was closed, refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Frances Dudley
Recording Secretary